

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Official Action dated 21 May 2004. Responsive to the rejections made in the Official Action, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the combination of elements that form the invention of the subject Patent Application and Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled by this Amendment.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 – 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable over Blankenship, U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0077433, in view of Helmstetter et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,475,100.

The Examiner stated that the Blankenship reference disclosed a head having a borehole, a protecting insert for cushioning in the form of soft material, a fixing lower end portion and an insert being smaller than an upper end portion in diameter, the insert having a plurality of second holes on a lower fixing end portion for allowing glue applied over a side of a lower shaft end and glue applied over an outer side of the fixing lower end portion of the insert to be joined together. The Examiner then admitted that the reference lacked a head borehole having an upper portion and a lower portion smaller than the upper portion in diameter and fixing the lower end portion of the insert in the upper portion of the borehole. The Examiner then referred to the Helstetter reference as disclosing a hosel having an insert with a liner that is positioned with the insert having an upper portion and a

lower portion smaller than the upper portion in diameter and fixing the lower end portion of the liner in an upper portion of the insert. The Examiner then concluded it would have been obvious to modify the head of Blankenship to have a head borehole having an upper portion and a lower portion smaller than an upper portion in diameter and fixing a lower end portion of the insert in an upper portion of the borehole, as disclosed by Helmstetter et al.

It is respectfully submitted that the Blankenship reference is directed to a golf club shaft adapter having a plurality of sidewall openings 34 for the efficient flow of liquid adhesive throughout the internal and external surfaces of the sidewalls of the adapter. However, the adapter is for use with a golf club head that has an internal hosel 18 and while the openings 34 can be irregular in shape, they are not disclosed or suggested as being defined by a circumferentially directed first slot and an axially directed second slot intersecting the first slot, as shown in Fig. 1 of the subject Patent Application, and now claimed.

The Helmstetter et al. reference does not overcome the deficiencies of Blankenship. The Helmstetter et al. reference is directed to a golf club head with adjustable face angle having an internal hosel defined by an insert 51 to which a hosel liner 50 is coupled. Thus, in addition to disclosing a golf club head with an internal hosel rather than a hosel that extends from the golf club head, the liner 50 is not disclosed as having openings in the sidewall that are defined by a

circumferentially directed first slot and an axially directed second slot intersecting the first slot, as claimed for the invention of the subject Patent Application.

The openings 63 in the invention of the subject Patent Application provide a flow passage for adhesive, the cured adhesive acting as a pin to secure the insert 6 to both the golf club head and the shaft of the golf club together. The particular contour of the openings prevent both angular (circumferential) or lineal (axial) displacements of the insert 6 relative to the golf club head when the golf club head strikes a ball, page 6, lines 13 – 18. As neither Blankenship nor Helmstetter et al. disclose or suggest openings formed through the sidewalls of an insert having an opening defined by circumferentially directed first slot and an axially directed second slot intersecting the first slot, that combination of references cannot make obvious the invention of the subject Patent Application, as now claimed.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 18 Aug. 2004

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